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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

March 26, 1963

The Honorable Carl Vinson
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

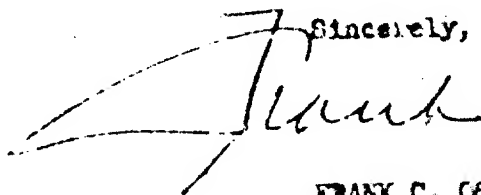
Dear Mr. Chairman:

You have performed a great public service by the manner in which you handled my request for a study of our intelligence community. The recent unpublicized discussions of our CIA Subcommittee with Central Intelligence Agency Director John A. McCone, together with certain other events and reports, have convinced me that our national defense intelligence community is basically sound and that weaknesses are being promptly and properly corrected as they develop.

The quiet, calm and thorough manner in which you guided this delicate matter which had unfortunately, and to my deep regret, received altogether too much bruting about in the press is to be most highly complimented.

Kind personal regards.

Sincerely,



FRANK C. CONEY, JR.

FCO:HDK

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DCI has seen.

(CIA)

WASHINGTON--A REPUBLICAN MEMBER OF THE HUSH-HUSH HOUSE CIA SUBCOMMITTEE SAID TODAY HE WAS CONVINCED THAT U.S. DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE IS "BASICALLY SOUND AND THAT WEAKNESSES ARE BEING PROMPTLY AND PROPERLY CORRECTED AS THEY DEVELOP."

THE COMMENT WAS MADE BY REP. FRANK C. OSMERS JR. OF NEW JERSEY, IN A LETTER TO CHAIRMAN CARL VINSON, D-GA., OF THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE.

OSMERS PRAISED VINSON FOR THE "QUIET, CALM AND THOROUGH MANNER" IN WHICH VINSON CONDUCTED A REVIEW OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES IN HIGHLY-SECRET HEARINGS. VINSON IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE CIA SUBCOMMITTEE.

OSMERS SAID IN A STATEMENT THAT HE HAD URGED IN JANUARY THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEE MAKE A STUDY OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SETUP "TO INSURE THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE WAS BEING DONE TO PREVENT ANOTHER BELATED DISCOVERY OF A COMMUNIST BUILDUP SUCH AS OCCURRED LAST FALL IN CUBA."

"MANY BITTER LESSONS HAVE BEEN LEARNED IN THE RECENT PAST," HE SAID. "HOWEVER, IT IS MY CONSIDERED JUDGMENT THAT AT THE PRESENT TIME EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IS BEING DONE BY THE CIA AND OTHER INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES TO OBTAIN THE INFORMATION NEEDED FOR THE MAKING OF SOUND DECISIONS."

OSMERS' STATEMENT WAS CONSIDERED UNUSUAL BECAUSE MEMBERS OF THE CIA SUBCOMMITTEE RARELY MAKE ANY PUBLIC COMMENT CONCERNING THE GROUP'S WORK.

OSMERS SAID THAT HIS PREVIOUS SHARP COMMENTS ABOUT APPARENT INTELLIGENCE SHORTCOMINGS IN THE CUBAN AREA HAD SUBJECTED HIM "TO HARSH CRITICISM FROM SOME COLUMNISTS AND LOCAL POLITICIANS" WHO ACCUSED HIM OF FAILING TO OFFER CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS.

"FOR ME TO REPLY TO THESE POLITICAL SMEARS WOULD UNNECESSARILY INVOLVE THE HOUSE CIA SUBCOMMITTEE AND MYSELF IN THE PARTISAN POLITICAL CONTROVERSY ABOUT CUBA THAT HAS BEEN GOING ON SINCE LAST FALL," HE SAID. "AS A MATTER OF DEEP PERSONAL CONVICTION, I WILL NEVER USE TOP SECRET INFORMATION FOR MY PERSONAL POLITICAL BENEFIT. WINNING A POLITICAL ARGUMENT WILL NEVER BE SO IMPORTANT TO ME THAT I WOULD RELEASE FACTS THAT MIGHT POSSIBLY AID THE NATION'S POTENTIAL ENEMIES."

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